

REMARKS

Claims 15-34 are pending in the application.

Claims 28-31 and 34 are allowed.

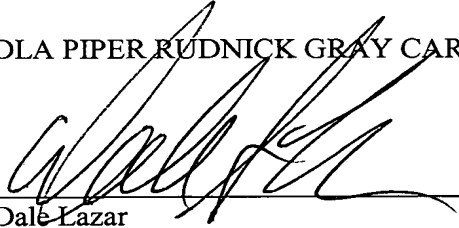
Claims 15-21, 25-26, and 32-33 are rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 15-16 and 20-22 of U.S. Patent 6,404,426 (Weaver). Claims 22-24 are also rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 16 of U.S. Patent 6,404,426 (Weaver) in view of U.S. Patent 6,026,179 (Brett). As noted in the Office Action, a timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 C.F.R. 1.321(c) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground if the conflicting patent is commonly owned with this application. Submitted with this response is a Terminal Disclaimer submitted by the owner of this application and U.S. Patent 6,404,426 (Weaver). Thus, Claims 15-26 and 32-33 are now allowable.

Claim 27 was objected to as being dependent upon rejected base Claim 15. As Claim 15 is now allowable, Claim 27 is also allowable.

Applicants believe the objections and rejections in the Office Action have been addressed and that the application is now in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone should the Examiner believe that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

DLA PIPER RUDNICK GRAY CARY US LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dale Lazar', is written over a horizontal line.

Dale Lazar
Registration No. 28,872
Attorney of Record

Lisa K. Norton
Registration No. 44,977

PO Box 9271
Reston, Virginia 20195-3171
Telephone No. (703) 773-4149
Facsimile No. (703) 773-5064